

# **LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT**

## **TO THE LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**MAY 2020**

### **ANIMAL CONTROL**

Animal Control received an average of 5-7 phone calls and emails daily this past month regarding coyotes being seen in southeast Lincoln. Animal Control staff have been doing a lot of public education about coyotes. In addition, Animal Control Officers have been patrolling the Holmes Lake area for the past 7 weeks. The number of calls has declined with only 1 or 2 calls a day at this point. We are also working Lincoln Parks and Recreation staff and the NE Game and Parks Commission.

The number of Bat calls have increased, and we will see a spike now and then a much larger spike in August- October. We have been working on an adjusted work schedule to be able to better staff some of these peak seasons for bat calls.

Staff continue to take all necessary precautions to avoid any exposure to COVID-19. Officers in the field have the needed PPE to protect themselves when interacting with the public on bite cases, bats and other calls. The Animal Control dispatchers are doing pre-screenings with callers that have requested an officer come to their home. The dispatchers ask questions about COVID symptoms so that the officers know before arriving and can make any adjustments needed.

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES**

Coronavirus (COVID -19) has come to be a household word for so many. There is much fear associated with the virus, and understandably so as it is known to cause devastation around the nation and the world. In our business as public health workers, our job is to educate the public/our community to give them the tools needed to promote and protect their health.

This past month, Community Health Services Division's staff have been partnering with other divisions and programs to provide education to our community in a variety of ways. Staff have been charged with relaying messages to the community through a hotline. This hotline is set up to bring information that is factual to individuals and in a timely fashion. This endeavor has been successful. We have the capability for 10-15 nurses to take calls from concerned residents. We are also able to increase or decrease the numbers of staff depending on the volume of calls. This gives us the ability to deploy staff to other areas when needed.

Another facet of our COVID-19 responsibility is the investigation of cases and contact tracing. This work requires additional staffing. It has been established that for every 100,000 individuals in the population, 30 contact tracers are required. Community Health Services Division recruited, hired and trained seventeen (17) nurses. These nurses along with eighteen (18) current CHS nurses provide investigations of positive COVID-19 cases and contact tracing. These services are initiated within hours of receiving the daily (weekend included) assignments. Individuals with positive test results are

contacted via the telephone. Staff are thorough in their information gathering. Staff also serves as a resource for the individuals. It is not unusual that referrals to the community or other health department services are made. It is very important to note that working as a team and collaborating with other partners is critical. A significant number of the cases speak a number of different languages, other than English. We are prepared for situations like this. The Health Department utilizes its own interpreters with six (6) different languages. These internal resources have served us well. LLCHD also collaborates with an external interpretation agency to supplement interpretation services as needed.

This past month has been a busy time. We are prepared for the coming months. This means that we are ready to appropriately staff these efforts if there are further increases in positive COVID-19 cases.

## DENTAL HEALTH

### DHNS Monthly Report for April 2020

### WIC

#### Caseload (Participation)



<b>Total</b>	<b>3808 (+73 April 2019)</b>	<b>State: 33,220 (-157 April 2019)</b>
<b>Main</b>	2596	
<b>Cornhusker Clinic</b>	1212 (Record High)	
<b>%Enrolled with Benefits</b>	90.54	

#### Participants by Category/Breastfeeding Information

	<b>LLCHD</b>	<b>State of Nebraska</b>
<b>Total Women</b>	838 (22.0%)	7,307 (22.0%)
<b>Total Children</b>	2171 (57.0%)	18,050 (54.3%)
<b>Total Infants</b>	799 (21.0%)	7,863 (23.7%)
<b>Infants Receiving Breastmilk</b>	307 (38.4%)	2,699 (34.3%)
<b>Infants Exclusive Breastmilk</b>	114 (14.3%)	906 (11.5%)

#### Mentoring:

(Number and school)

<b>Students</b>	
<b>Interns</b>	Hannah L. and Sean L.—UNL Dietetic Interns
<b>Volunteers</b>	
<b>LMEP Residents</b>	

#### WIC QI—No Show Rates:

	FFY 20 Main Office	FFY 20 North Office	FFY 20 LLCHD Overall
<b>October</b>	19.8%	17.5%	19.1%
<b>November</b>	19.9%	26.7%	22.1%
<b>December</b>	19.6%	23.3%	20.8%
<b>January</b>	21.4%	20.5%	21.1%
<b>February</b>	19.0%	22.8%	20.3%
<b>March</b>	11.1%	14.1%	12.2%
<b>April</b>	9.5%	14.3%	11.4%
<b>May</b>			
<b>June</b>			
<b>July</b>			
<b>August</b>			
<b>September</b>			
<b>Average</b>	17.2%	19.7%	18.1%

Our April caseload was 3808 (+73 from March 2019). Our North office broke another participation record with 1212 participants! (previous record was March 2020 with 1198 participants). Due to COVID-19, LLCHD WIC is completing all WIC visits via phone while clients remain at home which helps with our no-show rates. WIC will complete all visits via phone at least through May 2020.



## **DENTAL HEALTH**

### **Dental Clinic Services:**

#### **Emergency Dental Care Only**

- Total number of clients served (unduplicated count): 79
- Total number of patient encounters (duplicated client count): 102
- Total number of patient visits (duplicated provider appointments/visits): 102
- Total number of Racial/Ethnic and White Non-English speaking patients: 44 (56%)
- Total number of children served: 24 (30%)
- Total number of clients enrolled in Medicaid: 43 (54%)
- Total number of all clients with language barriers: 27 (34%)

(Arabic, French, Karen, Kurdish, Spanish)

Two contract dentists were utilized in the daily emergency and urgent dental care provided for clients. Dental hygienists and dental assistants were utilized in contacting clients in rescheduling of preventive and routine dental care appointments and alerting patients to call for appointments with tooth discomfort, pain or swelling. Two dental hygienists assisted with the community pick-up and delivery of masks for decontamination.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH**

## EPH Monthly Report May 2020

### Water Quality: Public Swimming Pools & Certified Pool Operator Training

**Purpose:** Protect human health by preventing waterborne illness.

**Water Quality Indicator:** 80% of swimming pools and spas meet health and safety regulations at time of inspection (do not have significant health and safety violations).

**Indicator Description:** LLCHD staff conduct regular inspections and test pool water for disinfectant, combined chlorine, pH, and Cyanuric acid.

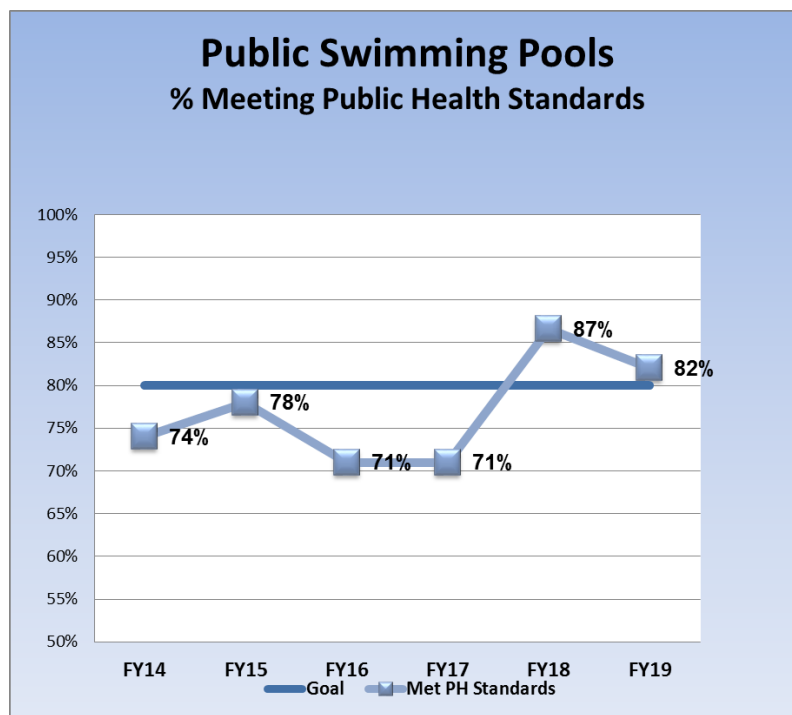
**Indicator Rationale:** Inspecting public swimming pools and testing pool water to determine compliance with health based standards reduces the risk of recreational waterborne illness. The higher the percent of pools that are in compliance with standards, the less risk of illness.

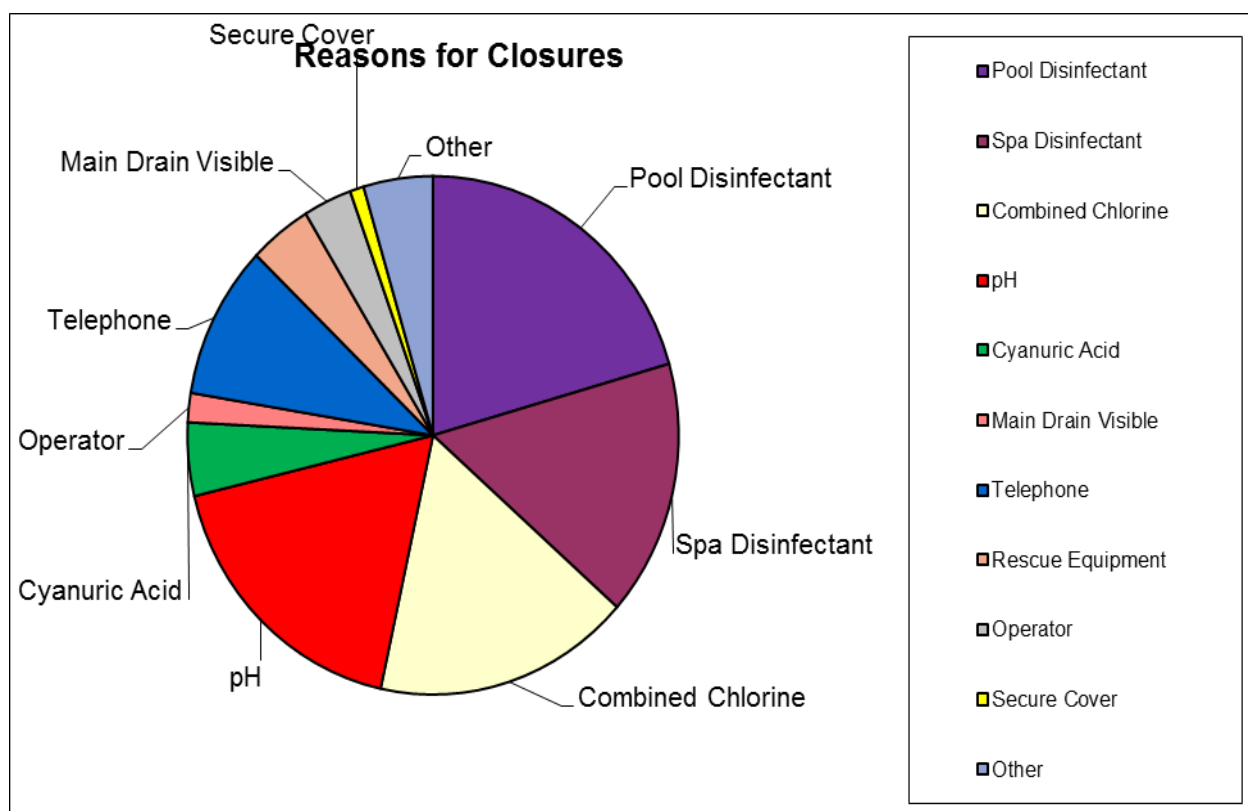
#### **Strategies/Methods (What we do):**

Train Pool Operators & Water Quality Testers; issue permits; review newly proposed or modified pools/spas; conduct pre-opening inspections for all seasonal pools; conduct inspections; test pool water for compliance with health based regulations; take enforcement actions.

**Funding/Source:** 100% of direct field costs were user fee funded

**Comparison: Percent of Pools Meeting Health and Safety Standards at time of inspection:** In FY19, 82% of pools met public health standards, the second highest rate of compliance in the last five years.





LLCHD staff conduct regular inspections and test pool water for disinfectant, combined chlorine, pH, and Cyanuric acid. In FY19, as in the past, the main reasons for closure were violation of health risk based water quality standards, including inadequate disinfectant levels, pH problems and high cyanuric acid levels. Pool operators and pool testers are required to test the pool regularly to assure compliance with these health risk based water quality standards.

**Description:** Lincoln ordinance requires all public swimming pools to be: built to regulations; permitted; inspected; operated by a trained Lincoln Pool Operator; and tested regularly for water quality by a Lincoln Pool Operator or a certified Lincoln Pool Water Quality Tester (as of January 2015). In FY19, 261 pools/spas were permitted (3), including 24 new pools. 645 inspections were performed (4), 495 people were trained to be Pool Operators and 143 people were trained (5) and received a two year



permit (\$20) as a Lincoln Pool Water Quality Tester. The permit fee for a pool was \$415 in FY19. Pool operators were charged \$60 for training, which includes their two year permit fee. All program costs for conducting inspections, investigating complaints and training were 100% user fee funded. Seasonal public swimming pools and spas are inspected prior to opening and at least twice each year. Year round pools are inspected at least three times per year.

In FY 19, 82% of pools met health and safety regulations at the time of

inspection, thus 18% of regular inspections found violations which resulted in the pool being temporarily closed due to significant health and safety violations. This is slightly less than last year's compliance rate, but again is the second best rate within the last five years. To reduce these health risks, the pool ordinance requires that any person that tests public swimming pool water must have LLCHD training, pass a test, and hold a permit as a Lincoln Water Quality Tester or Pool Operator. Pool water must be tested before opening and at a minimum every 4 hours to assure compliance with these health risk based water quality standards. Pools which may present a higher risk of recreational waterborne outbreaks of disease are inspected more frequently. All public swimming pools must have a Lincoln Swimming Pool Operator and the Health Department provides this training. Regular inspections serve as an opportunity to interact with the pool operator and help assure that chemical levels are at optimal levels to reduce the threat of recreational water illnesses (RWIs). Based on CDC data, as the swimming season progresses, the risk of RWIs, such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia, increases. Large outbreaks of swimming pool related Cryptosporidiosis occurred across the U.S. the last several years. Fortunately, Lincoln did not have any outbreaks of pool related diseases in 2019.

## **HEALTH PROMOTION & OUTREACH**

### **CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION**

#### **COVID-19 Response**

- Four of nine health educators in Health Promotion have been working from home due to COVID-19 pandemic response
- Five health educators are assisting with COVID-19 response duties.
- Direct service and community outreach have been modified to be done by phone and video conferencing.
- Hands-on training such as car safety seat installations have been suspended and virtual training has been utilized. (Bryan Health and CHI Health St. Elizabeth were contacted and informed Safe Kids could provide limited numbers of car seats in emergency situations to newborns of families in need.)
- Tobacco compliance checks are on hold

#### **Crusade Against Colon Cancer**

- Screening initiative during March and April -- initial data indicates 37 partners disseminated 652 colon cancer screening kits with a 57% return rate.

### **TOBACCO**

- A [COVID-19 and tobacco risk resource](#) was created and emailed to Business/School Task Force members to disseminate as they are able to their business partners.
- Staff provided Center for People in Need materials in Spanish, English and Arabic for Tobacco Free Tuesday food distribution sponsorship, assisting 700 families on an average Tuesday for food distribution.

### **INJURY PREVENTION**

- Staff shared the initial Safe Kids Worldwide [“Preventing Injuries During the Coronavirus”](#) infographic with: Community Action of Lancaster and Saunders Counties; LPS Family Literacy, Teen Parent Program and Wellness Coordinator; Health Department Childcare and Household Hazardous Waste Programs; City Communications; Community Learning Centers; YMCA; Lincoln Family Services and Lincoln Parks and Recreation.

- Because of the record sales of backyard swimming pools of all sizes due to COVID-19 social distancing practices, Safe Kids is creating and distributing three pool (and open water) safety educational videos to the following organizations: Partnership for Healthy Lincoln; Lincoln Family Services; LPS Communications, Lincoln Medical Education Partnership – School Community Intervention Program; Lutheran Family Services; CEDARS Youth Services; Community Action of Lancaster and Saunders Counties; LLCHD Childcare and Household Hazardous Waste Programs.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATICS & PLANNING**

- Epidemiology updated the COVID19 dashboard and the dial. They are analyzing positive cases and contacts and doing cluster analysis.
- Information Management has developed and implemented an application to manage PPE requests. They have updated it twice this month. Continued work implementing features of the new Intergy software for Community Health Services has been on-going.
- Communicable Disease is fully engaged in COVID19: investigations, consultation for health care providers and contact tracing. TB case work is being maintained.